

## Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

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INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0305

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV PINT AO

SUBJECT: HIGH COMMISSIONER DISCUSSES PERSONALITIES AND FINANCES

1. I TALKED WITH HIGH COMMISSIONER GENERAL ANTONIO DE SILVA CARDOSO ON MARCH 18 ABOUT THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT THE MAJOR PROBLEM RIGHT NOW IS HOW TO TRANSLATE DECISIONS BY THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS INTO ACTION. MEMBERS OF THE THREE MOVEMENTS ARE GETTING ALONG QUITE WELL AT THE TOP, HE SAID, BUT EVEN THOUGH THEY AGREE ON COURSES OF ACTION THEY SEEM UNABLE TO GAIN MUCH MOMENTUM AT THE OPERATIONAL LEVEL. CARDOSO SAID THAT MPLA IS A MAJOR OFFENDER IN THIS REGARD. (IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM I DISCUSS THE CURRENT SITUATION IN MPLA.)

2. WITH RESPECT TO PERSONALITIES IN THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID NONE HAS EMERGED AS A STRONG FIGURE. MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR KABANGU (FNLA) IS A VERY STRONG PERSONALITY, BUT HE CANNOT

DELEGATE AND IS SWAMPED BY PAPER. THE FNLA MEMBER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL, JOHNNY EDUARDO IS SMART, COOPERATIVE AND MODERATE. SURPRISINGLY, YOUNG LOPO DE NASCIMENTO, THE MPLA COUNCIL MEMBER, HAS SHOWN HIMSELF TO HAVE A GOOD GRASP  
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OF PROBLEMS AND LEARNS FAST. STILL, HE IS YOUNG, INEXPERIENCED

AND WITHOUT POWER. THE UNITA MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, JOSE N'DELE, HAS NOT EMERGED AS A FORCEFUL PERSONALITY. SERIOUS PROBLEMS EXIST IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, WHERE FNLA'S HENDRICK VAAL NETO IS SECRETARY AND MPLA HAS ITS MAN AS MINISTER. THE TWO FIGHT CONSTANTLY AND THE CHARGED ATMOSPHERE HAS AFFECTED THE UNITA SECRETARY, JAKA JAMBA, WHO HAS ALSO ADOPTED A CONFRONTATION STYLE. THE GENERAL SAID THE TWO MEN WHO DO RECEIVE RESPECT AND ATTENTION FROM THEIR PEERS ARE THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY, ANTONIO VIEIRA DE ALMEIDA AND JEREMIAS CHITUNDA, THE MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES. BOTH MEN, HE SAID, DO THEIR HOMEWORK AND CAN MORE THAN HOLD THEIR OWN IN CABINET DEBATE. THE MPLA MINISTER OF FINANCE, SAYDI MINGAS, IS A HOTHEAD; HE IS BRIGHT, BUT WHEN QUESTIONED OR CRITICIZED TENDS TO SHOUT RATHER THAN DISCUSS RATIONALLY. HE VERY SELDOM PUTS IN THE REQUISITE TIME TO UNDERSTAND AN ISSUE.

4. NOW THAT DANIEL CHIPENDA HAS PUT HIS FORCES UNDER THE WING OF THE FNLA I ASKED CARDOSO ABOUT HIS EARLIER FEAR THAT THERE WOULD BE CIVIL WAR IF CHIPENDA ALLIED WITH FNLA. HE SAID THAT MUCH HINGES ON WHAT SAVIMBI DOES. IF HE ALLIES WITH HOLDEN ROBERTO THERE WILL BE A LOT OF BLOOD SPILLED IN LUANDA, WHERE MPLA HAS ITS BASE OF SUPPORT, BUT THAT THE BATTLE WILL BE SHORT AND MPLA WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT A UNITA/FNLA HEGEMONY. IF, FOR SOME REASON, SAVIMBI DECIDES TO GO WITH FNLA, THERE WILL BE WIDESPREAD AND PROLONGED VIOLENCE. CARDOSO CANNOT AT THIS MOMENT SEE ANY REASON FOR SAVIMBI ALLYING WITH NETO, BUT HE SAID THAT OPTION IS STILL THERE. IF IT COMES ABOUT, THE PARTITION OF ANGOLA IS ALMOST CERTAIN. HE DOES NOT THINK SAVIMBI WANTS THE PRESIDENCY IMMEDIATELY AFTER INDEPENDENCE, BUT WILL MAKE ALLIANCES THAT WILL KEEP HIM CLOSE TO THE LEVERS OF POWER AND ABLE MOVE WHEN CONDITIONS APPEAR RIGHT. CARDOSO STILL BELIEVES THAT A COALITION AFTER INDEPENDENCE IS A VERY GOOD POSSIBILITY.

5. CARDOSO SAID THAT THE BEST FINANCED MOVEMENT IS FNLA. UNITA SEEMS TO BE HOLDING ITS OWN, BUT MPLA IS HAVING A GOOD BIT OF FINANCIAL TROUBLE; THEY ALWAYS SEEM TO HAVE TO PASS THE HAT TO GET FUNDS. CARDOSO SAID THAT EACH MOVEMENT RECEIVED 10,000,000 ESCUDOS (ABOUT 400,000 DOLLARS AT THE OFFICIAL RATE OF EXCHANGE), IN THE FINAL DAYS OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THAT

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ALL THREE PROBABLY WILL BE GIVEN SUBSTANTIAL SUMS IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO FINANCE THEIR ELECTION CAMPAIGNS.  
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